

# The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 9215

號八千百二十九號

日初月六年三十光

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JULY 21ST, 1887.

四時晴

號一十二月七英香港

PRICE 2/- PER MONTH

## SHIPPING.

### ARRIVALS.

July 19. DEUTSCHLAND, German steamer, 280. Hamburg, Hamburg, and Singapore 10th. July, General—MEYER & CO.

July 20. CANTON, British str., 1,110. BROMER, Whampoa 20th July, General—JARDINE, MATHERSON & CO.

### PASSENGERS TO DEPART.

For Ous, str., from Hongkong.—For Saigon.—Mr. Chan Wo Sing, and 3 Chinese. For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Zettina and 3 children (The Zettina).—Mr. C. M. M. M. Messrs. John, Femal, and Biller, 1,000. For Saigon.—Mr. Kihing and servant. For Suez.—Mr. Elman. For Marseilles.—Mr. Gordon, Capt. and Mrs. Bonomi and child. From Yokohama.—For Saigon.—French marines. For Marseilles.—Messrs. Y. Cat, K. Karyama, and Y. Yoshida.

### AMOY SHIPPING.

July 16. ARRIVALS. 6. Nokon, British str., from Tamsui.

### LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1887.

## INTIMATIONS.

### FOR SALE.

#### SUNDRIES RECENTLY UNPACKED

"Perfect" SEAMLESS TENNIS BALLS. Silicated Carbon Filters (movable blocks). Toilet Soaps and Perfumery.

Eau de Cologne and Lavender Water. New Books and Music.

#### OFFICE STATIONERY & OFFICE SUNDRIES.

Billiard Balls for English, French, and American Games.

English and American Billiard Cues.

Coffee Mills and Coffee Roasters.

Waterproof Coats and Chair Aprons.

Artist's Chalks and Sustries.

Travelling Spirit Stoves.

ELECTRO-PLATEDWARE.

Swimming Bolts and Swimming Collars.

And.

CALCUTTA PITH SUN HATS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1887.

W. B. E. W. R. HAS JUST RECEIVED

A Beautiful Selection of Birthday Cards in New Designs.

Photo Albums in Plush and Morocco.

Photo Frames and Fancy Goods.

Cress Fountain Pens, Fancy Stationery.

Correspondence Cards, &c., handsomely embossed.

Tobaccos, Golden Cloud, Three Castles, Mutual Friend, Old Rip, and Richmond.

Match Cigarettes, Tom Jack, Golden Cloud, Solace, &c.

More Cheap Commercial Envelopes, \$1.35 per 1,000.

Spur's Machinist Own Book.

Companion Letter Writer, 40 cents.

The A' Telephograph Code, A. B. C. Code.

Scott's Ship Owners Telegraph Code.

Read's New Guide Book and Key.

Leigh's "A Practical Guide to Photography."

Heath's "A Practical Guide to Photography."

Leigh's "A Practical Guide to Photography."



## GLEANINGS FROM THE JAPANESE PRESS.

It is stated that the Chinese Government intend engaging two engineers from the Iyo copper mines.

The Japanese Government has requested the Iyo Government to purchase a quantity of telephonic apparatus.

A lady is being procured from England to superintend the Female Education Association of Osaka, and will be accompanied here by two assistant teachers.

Medals are to be given to persons distinguished for heroism, and the necessary dues are not being paid.

The Osaka Stock Exchange made a profit of about 34,000 yen during the first half of the current year, and this will give a dividend of at least 10 per cent.

On the 1st and 2nd instant the Kyoto branch of the Mitsui Bank received for exchange 100 paper notes to the value of about 100,000 yen. Out of this sum there were counterfeits representing over 2,000 yen, and this the holders must bear.

Judge Matsukura, Director of the Second Criminal Bureau in Court of Cassation, and Judge Ichimura, of the Tokyo Court of First Instance, have been ordered to proceed to Belgium in order to attend the second International Commercial Conference which will be held shortly in Brussels.

Kinoshita and Kishima silk pieces goods produced in Kai Prefecture are classed among the important export articles. Of late these fabrics have come to be used as material for night clothes of ladies, so a considerable increase has been made in the export of these articles.

Chinese marts are necessary for tea packing and the import every year reaches from 100,000 to 120,000 yen. It is found that the robes which are used in such a large quantity are well suited for making these marts, and some experiments are to be made with the object of supplanting the Chinese articles in this market.

A resident of Osaka has invented a method of preparing tea for shipment which is simpler and less costly than the ordinary process. Another person, also living in Osaka, has discovered a plan of making tea to appear equal to the finest tea. Experiments are being made with both inventions by the Osaka Tea Merchants' Association.

Though lace-making has only been introduced into the country a few years, it seems to have made much progress. Some time ago some lace, representing Japanese pictures of flowers, birds, etc., was exported abroad. It was much commended, and was much inferior, if not superior to European lace.

There are 900 factories in Osaka and it has been proposed to supply them with uniform of foreign pattern, as that description of clothing is best for their work. We hear, however, that the clothing of the former has hitherto cost about 300 yen per annum, and that the new uniform suggested will involve an outlay of about 100 yen. Consequently motives of economy will probably prevent the change being made at present.

Since purchasing the Government brewery at Sapporo, Hokkaido, Messrs. Okura & Co. have engaged in the manufacture of beer on a larger scale. This company has recently made beer after a German mode and shipped it to Tokyo and Yokohama, where it has met with great favor. It is now intended by the above company to export beer from Japan and to manufacture beer on an extensive scale as to supply the import of beer.

The Yamashiro Tea Firing Company was established in May, 1885. Since that time the business of the Company has gradually been advancing in the direction of prosperity. At present, a great quantity is daily fired and the exports to foreign countries, especially to the United States, are being made. Previously this company shipped their tea to Messrs. Russell & Co., of New York, but now they have despatched a Japanese. From January to April last 3,762 bales were exported to the United States in seventeen shipments.

It was at first proposed to construct the line of the Sanyo Railway Company on the system adopted in the United States, but owing to the want of capital in Japan, in 1885, in the progress of the proposition has been abandoned, and the English method has been adopted. The survey on the proposed line has been finished as far as the first section, and the second and third sections are in course of survey. After the completion of the survey, an application will be made to the Government for the sanction of the regulations of the Company.

It was said only a few days ago that Japanese cotton is exported to Europe. This year the trade is very promising. Up to last year, the cotton was purchased by Chinese merchants and shipped to Singapore and several Chinese ports. At present this article is demand in England and Germany, so the trade at Yokohama is very active now-a-days. The price ruling is 80 or 90 per cent for similar quality and about 45 for cotton. In view of this fact, the Chinese in the capital intend despatching an agent in order to make arrangements for extensively carrying on business.

Before December last there were only about eight tailoring shops in Osaka, including the urban as well as rural districts. Since the visit of His Majesty the Emperor to Osaka this Spring the number of tailors who wear foreign dresses has considerably increased, creating a great increase in the number of tailors. During the first half of this year no less than about one hundred and ten new tailoring shops were started. Chinese labour is principally utilized in these shops as it is cheaper than Japanese. The Chinese are more dexterous at the work. Most of these shops engage six or seven Chinese tailors. Recently these tailors organized themselves in a guild, and compiled regulations comprising fifty eight articles for the discipline of the trade.

In view of the increasing demand for jinrikisha in China, a project has been set on foot at Osaka to establish a company entitled the Jinrikisha Exporting Company, with the object of shipping jinrikisha to that country on a large scale. The project is now in the hands of the branch office of the Nippon Bank and Fuku National Bank. Orders from China chiefly are for those jinrikisha with illustrated figures representing old heroes, the use of which was forbidden in Japan some time ago under the revised regulations for jinrikisha, so that they remain in stock at present. In consequence the price of such jinrikisha is comparatively cheap. Of late a large demand for jinrikisha has sprung up in Okinawa Prefecture.

## THE RUBY MINES OF BURMAH.

Of late years little was really known of the famous ruby mines, and in Theebaw's time their produce is believed to have considerably fallen off. Mr. G. Skeeter Streeter has, however, been enabled to inspect the mines closely, and it need not be supposed for a moment that his firm have obtained a monopoly of a part of it. He has written a fine article on the subject in the May number of Murray's Magazine, which will be read with interest by numberless people besides the other firms or syndicates who were competing for the contract. "The territory of the mines of precious stones," as the Jesuit Monk Amato called it fifty years ago, was supposed to be about 100 miles in diameter, and to contain seven lakes, and to be so unhealthy a place that there was no fighting, and they generally managed to show just enough opposition to entitle them to the higher scale of wages. Once, however, the mysterious town of Mogok was reached on the 27th January all the opposition died away.

There was no trace of the seventeen lakes, though the town certainly had in a valley about 100 miles in diameter. As we rode down to it we saw girt grooves, ploughed steps, kyonzas, and pictographs houses far below, set in a hilly back-ground rich with the different colours of the jungle foliage, variegated here and there with patches of red and white where a new mine had been opened out among the forest trees of the jungle hill side. The town junks were in great numbers of packages, all of them, it must be seen, were really wealthy. It is still the commercial and political centre of the country for fifty miles round and fairly populous. In former days there was a large trade in tea and other products; now it boasts of a very meek population—Shan, Burmese, Manipuri, Patungs, Meitangs, Chinese, and Haman Chinese, who have come to try their fortune at the ruby mines.

The ruby-bearing district lying in a few com-

petent valley basins—Mogok, Yen, Kali, and Kape—was recently discovered, and interested by numerous miners, which finally nests, and must at one time have been a volcanic crater. The mines are of three distinct kinds, the first, and to Mr. Streeter's thinking the most important, are in the metamorphic or granite rock. Here the workmen follow up the huge fissures in the rock and extract as they go the soft red and blackish clayey earth, in which the rubies are found, and for this they can back directly over them to incandescent gaseous. The second variety of mines is found on the sides of the rocky hills where diversified strata of a red and white clayey consistency have been upheaved. Masses of material are here undergoing disintegration. Some of it is as light as sand, stone, some as hard, almost as granite. This is the case with the material which furnishes the ruby and sapphire in their existing state. These mines are worked by a simple system of hydraulic mining on a small scale. The earth is moistened with water every evening and dug out by hand next morning. Thus, we are told, "the whole of a hillside is slowly eaten away and its rubies extracted by this system."

Mr. Skeeter with myriads of small stones, broken in colour but not large, and which are to be used for making beads, and some as large as grain, found the rubies and sapphires in their existing state. Those mines are worked by a simple system of hydraulic mining on a small scale. The earth is moistened with water every evening and dug out by hand next morning. Thus, we are told, "the whole of a hillside is slowly eaten away and its rubies extracted by this system."

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## INTIMATIONS.

## JUST RECEIVED.

## FOR SALE.

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## FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

GUARANTEED the very best Quality HOLLAND GENEVER or GIN in Cases of One Dozen or less, White Crystal Glass Bottles, Key Brand. Also GENEVER in Store Bottles and POMERANZ BITTERS.

GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, CART-  
IDGES, SHOT, &c., &c.

The RISING HOPE Sit TO TOBACCO from Nello (Rotterdam).

J. F. SCHEFFER,  
21 & 22, Putteng Street.

TEN YEARS IN THE  
JAP. EAST.

DEMY Sto. No. 140, £2.00.

EVENTS IN HONGKONG AND THE  
FAR EAST.

1875 to 1884.

Arranged Chronologically, with Copious INDEX, by which the date of any event can be found at a glance.

For a complete register of POLITICAL,  
COMMERCIAL and SOCIAL OCCURRENCES,  
WEATHER, SHIPPING CASUALTIES, FIRES,  
TYPHOONS, &c.

DAILY PRESS Office, Wyndham Street.

KELLY & WALSH, Queen's Road.

W. BREWER, Queen's Road.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1885.

SQUARE BOTTLE WHISKY

NAPIER JOHNSTONE'S BLEND.

Superb Quality.

CUTTER, PALMER & CO'S SELECTION.

Apply to LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,

Hongkong.

1885.

FOR SALE.

AT WHOLESALE PRICES.

SHACONE'S SHERRY PORT.

CLARET, CHAMPAGNE.

HOCKS, BURGUNDY.

BRANDY, WHISKIES, ALE, STOUT.

MACHINERY, LAWN MOWERS.

SCOOTERS, BICYCLES.

PAINTS, OILS, VARNISH.

Apply to W. G. HUMPHREYS & CO.,

Bank Buildings.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1885.

FOR SALE.

ANGLO-CHINESE CALENDAR,

1887.

FOR THE DESK.

IN RED AND BLACK.

IN RED IMPERIAL MONOCO CASE.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR.

KELLY & WALSH, W. BREWER, LANE,  
CRAWFORD & CO.

If you want JAPANESE GOODS at  
Reasonable Prices

Go to CASSUMBOY'S STORE,

BEACONFIELD ACADEMY.

A Large Assortment of New Satsuma and  
Other Wares, Bronzes, Tea Services, Screens, &c.

and New and Second-hand FURNITURE at  
Lowest Prices.

MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.

The French Contract Packet "Oise" will

be despatched on THURSDAY, the 21st inst.

with Mails to the United Kingdom, Europe

and places beyond, via Naples; to Saigon,

Straits Settlements, Batavia, Borneo, Calcutta,

India, Madras, the Australian Colonies,

Aden, Natal and the Cape, Egypt, Malta, and

Gibraltar.

The "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" is kept on

file at the Office of L. P. FISHER, who is autho-

rised to receive advertisements.

NOTICE.

BOOKBINDING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES  
AT THE "DAILY PRESS" OFFICE.

Bookbinding in every Style by Competent  
Workmen of the Finest.

Mus. in elegant Bindings.

Commercial Bindings of all Sizes and Descrip-

tion, and Account Books suited to any  
Pattern.

QUALITY OF MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP  
GUARANTEED.

"DAILY PRESS" OFFICE,  
HONGKONG.

SUMMER TIME TABLE.

THE KOWLOON FERRY.

STEAMER "MORNING STAR".

Runs Daily as Ferry Boat between PEDDAN'S  
WHARF and Tsim-Tsa-Tsui at the following  
hours.—This Table will take effect from  
the 15th April, 1887.

WEED DATES. SUNDAYS.

Leaves Hongkong 7.00 A.M.

Arrives Kowloon 7.00 A.M.

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# MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JULY 21st, 1887.

## THE NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF AND THE NATIVE TRADE OF HONGKONG.

The new tariff applied to the junk trade with Hongkong and Macao, although it has been suspended at the latter port, is still enforced at the stations outside Hongkong. At the last meeting of the Legislative Council the Hon. Wong Shing drew attention to the subject, particularly with reference to the duty imposed on salt fish. Under the tariff as applied to the Tientsin Treaty salt fish is exempt from duty as an export, but is subject to duty as an import. That tariff applies only to foreign vessels, but we are bound to assume that the Chinese Government will not impose duties on its own vessels in excess of those imposed on foreigners. As a matter of fact junks trading with this port have hitherto enjoyed the benefit of a differential tariff. It follows, therefore, that if salt fish coming into Hongkong is taxed by the Chinese Customs it must be on the principle that Hongkong is a Chinese port at which the Chinese Customs Authorities can impose duties on imports. The tax is clearly indefensible, and its imposition calls for an energetic protest on the part of the Colonial Government. When the Council meets next Friday we shall therefore hear what has been done, as Mr. Wong Shing gave notice at the last meeting of his intention to ask a question. When he mentioned the subject last week the Government was evidently taken by surprise. The Acting Governor said it was the first he had heard of the matter, but that the Council might rest assured that no action prejudicial to the interests of this colony would be allowed. His Excellency also said he hoped all difficulties would disappear when the Foreign Collectorate had everything in its own hands. Has not the Foreign Collectorate everything in its own hands at present? This is a question on which a little more information would be welcome. In the memorandum of the basis of agreement arrived at between the British and Chinese Commissioners in pursuance of the Article 7, section 3, of the Chfoo Convention, and the Additional Article, it is stipulated (1) "That no dues whatsoever shall be demanded from junks coming to Hongkong from ports in China or proceeding from Hongkong to ports in China over and above the dues paid or payable at the ports of clearance or destination" and (2) that the officer of the Foreign Inspectorate responsible for the management of the Kowloon office shall investigate and settle any complaints made by junks against the Native Customs Revenue Stations or cruisers in the neighbourhood of Hongkong, and that the Governor of Hongkong shall be entitled to send a Hongkong officer to be present at and assist in the investigation and decision. The new régime came into force on the 1st instant, under regulations issued by Sir Robert Hart with the sanction of the Tsung-li Yamen. The purpose of these regulations was explained in an article which appeared in our columns on the 5th instant. The regulations provide (1) that native vessels belonging to a treaty port, when clearing for Hongkong or Macao, must pay full export tariff, and her clearance will be concluded at one of the six stations; (2) that on her return to a treaty port she must report at one of the stations, and on arrival at her destination may fall import tariff; (3) that junks belonging to a non-treaty port on reporting at the stations on their voyage to Hongkong pay half tariff duty and on their return voyage full tariff duty; (4) Hongkong or Macao junks are to pay full tariff duty at the stations on their outward and inward courses. These regulations must be read in the light of the agreement above referred to, wherein it is stipulated that no dues shall be demanded from junks trading with Hongkong above those payable at the port of entry or clearance. Consequently, when a junk has paid full tariff duty at one of the stations she ought not to be called upon to pay any further duty on arrival at her port of destination, or when she has to pay half tariff duty at the stations, not more than half tariff duty ought to be collected at her port of departure. Nothing can be clearer than this. But the native traders allege that the dues collected at the Customs stations outside the colony are simply additional to and not in substitution of the dues payable heretofore. Thus, a junk leaving Canton for Hongkong has, it is said, to pay duty as before at Canton, and on reporting at one of the stations has to pay an additional duty. The consequence is that the junk trade is crippled, and owners are talking of withdrawing their vessels. In our former article we stated that the cessation of the lucrative advantages junks have hitherto been enjoying from a practically preferential tariff would bring corresponding advantages to the owners of steamers. It was not anticipated, however, that prohibitive duties would be levied on native craft, on which the colony is dependent for so large a portion of its distributing trade. The ports to which steamers can pay are few in number; it is by junks alone that imports can be conveyed to the smaller consuming centres—small, we mean, individually, but very important when considered collectively—and by which produce can be brought to this colony. And even as regards the treaty ports, to which steamers can pay, it is not desirable that the junk trade should be forcibly strangled. A fair field and no favour is the motto of this free port. It would perhaps have been too much to expect that the transition from the old to the new régime should be accomplished without some friction. It is difficult, also, to say where the responsibility for the present deplorable state of affairs rests. To suppose that the Foreign Collectorate can

of its own motion have enforced the levy of illegal dues on the food supplies of the colony, as in the case of the salt fish, seems absurd; nevertheless, the fact remains that the customs stations are now under the supervision of the Foreign Collectorate. It may be that the fault rests with the authorities at the Chinese ports. But here again, in the case of the Treaty ports, the junks trading with this colony are supposed to be under the regulation of the Foreign Collectorate. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Commissioners in the Foreign Customs Service are not free agents. The Native Superintendent is their colleague, but not their superior officer, and without his consent they are practically powerless. When foreign vessels are concerned these native officials seldom or never interfere, but it is easy to understand that in a case like the present they would not hesitate, under orders possibly from the Provincial Government, to show their power vis-à-vis the Foreign Customs. It is hardly to be wondered at that the Chinese people, accustomed to such sights as these atrocities inflicted in the sacred name of justice, should grow up with blunted sensibilities and narrowed sympathies.

With reference to the taxation of salt fish by the Chinese Customs Authorities, to which we referred on Saturday, we have been reminded that by the first of the rules appended to the Tariff of 1885 articles not enumerated in the export list, but included in the import list, when exported pay the amount of duty set against them in the import list. Salt fish is included in the import list, and consequently is liable to duty when exported. The dealers allege, however, that no duty has ever been paid on salt fish imported or exported in junks from or to Hongkong. We believe the difference between the Hoppo's tariff duty on salt fish and the Foreign tariff duty is small, but the Hoppo would seem, according to the natives, not to have collected any. Probably it was too much trouble, or some stipulation was made with the Government. Strictly speaking, Hongkong would have no legal ground of complaint if the Chinese Authorities charged higher duties on junk-carrying goods from non-treaty ports, but it would be regarded as unfriendly, and it is not likely to be done with the consent of the Imperial Government. What has to be guarded against is that a junk having paid proper import duties to China at the stations should be called upon to pay more on arrival, and that junks which have paid full duties at the port of departure should be required to pay any at the blockade stations. There is a difficulty about goods coming from China and going to China through Hongkong or Macao. For example, fish from one outside port pays duty of export and then another duty when it leaves Hongkong. How could it be shown to be the same? When the difficulty arose, however, we learn that the tariff was suspended, and it will be found, no doubt, that there was some good reason for the non-levy by the Hoppo of duty on salt fish exported to Hongkong and imported into China, or for the abandonment of all duty. It may be that it was due to the fact that the Salt Commissioner levies a tax on all fishing junks, whether they belong to Hongkong or not. The permits are granted to cover the salt they carry. It, however, a tax on salt fish is imposed it ought to lead to the growth of a large salt fish industry in this colony. Salt costs little here, and the fish could be run in and salted at Shaukiwan, Stanley, or Aberdeen. But the point to be watched is that exports from Hongkong, when they have paid duties at the stations, shall not be freed again on the mainland at non-treaty ports. The Foreign Inspectorate can only be relieved upon, of course, but will they have the power to stop illegal levies on the coast? The new arrangement is not agreeable to the Provincial Authorities, and they are still sufficiently independent of the Central Government to throw many difficulties in the way.

## TYphoon WARNINGS.

Dr. DOBERK, in his weather report the other day, stated that a small typhoon had crossed the China Sea. Information of the approach of the typhoon, or of its existence, would have been of more practical utility than information coming only after its final disappearance. Presumably the data received at the Observatory were not sufficient to enable the Director to issue any earlier notification. Dr. DOBERK, we understand, wishes the Observatory to be placed in direct telegraphic communication with the Cable Companies' offices in Queen's-road. The Companies are most obliging in allowing the use of the cables to the Observatory, and if a connection was made between the office and the Observatory, the latter could communicate promptly with the meteorological stations in Japan, on the coast of China, in Tonquin, at Cape St. James, the Philippines, and, shortly, with South Cip. Burmese, the Observatory being on friendly terms with all the stations named. The number of stations in the China Coast Meteorological Service is sufficient, but want direct telegraphic communication to increase their accuracy. In fact the Observatory gets more information, it is believed, than any station in the world the reason why so little of it can be utilised is that there is no direct communication with any of the stations. If there was direct communication with the offices in Queen's-road the Observatory would be able to make inquiries as to the cause when the

telegrams from any of the stations did not arrive or were delayed, and the efficiency of the service would be much increased. The question is simply one of expense, and the colony would probably be unwilling to incur further heavy expenditure incurred account of the Observatory. The establishment has already far outgrown the idea with which it was started. What was intended was simply to get out a practical meteorologist and supply him with sufficient instruments to enable him to work out storm warnings with an approximation to accuracy. Both at Manila and Shanghai there were observatories worked by the Jesuit Fathers at small cost, which was provided for privately, and what was intended in Hongkong was to establish an observatory of about the same or a slightly higher grade at the public expense. Dr. DOMERK was the Director selected, and the modest idea of the Government and the community fell far short of the large ideas of that talented gentleman, whose ambition it appears to be to make the Hongkong Observatory the first and the most expensive in the world. Of the value of the work done by Dr. DOBERK there can be no two opinions; in fact his reports are acknowledged and reviewed by all scientific authorities, and the publications of the Observatory with reference to typhoon investigations are more exhaustive than those of any other station. But much of the work done by Dr. DOBERK is in which the colony is not specially interested and for which it has no desire to pay. As to direct cable communication between the Observatory and the Telegraph Companies' offices in Queen's-road, such communication would doubtless be extremely useful, but the question of expense stands in the way.

At the meeting of the International Meteorological Committee held at Paris two years ago a discussion took place on the question, "How is it possible to ensure the receipt of meteorological telegrams in time to be of use?" and an interesting letter on the subject by Captain J. C. de BIEIRO CAPELLO, of the Lisbon Observatory, was read. The position taken up by Captain CAPELLO was that the meteorological observers or institutes should be in direct telegraphic communication by means of underground lines. Such a system, he said, was very far from being realised. Nevertheless they ought to try to improve the existing service, although its imperfection was well known. At present meteorological reports are transmitted over lines called international by the telegraphic administrations of neighbouring countries, the reports being classed as service telegrams. Telegraphic reports are classed under three heads—state telegrams, service messages, and private telegrams. The transmission of the telegrams of these three categories takes place in this same order. Captain CAPELLO recommended that as a means of diminishing delay meteorological reports should be raised to the first class and treated as state telegrams. The Committee, having heard Captain CAPELLO's letter read, adopted a resolution to the effect that the telegraphic service generally worked in a satisfactory manner in most parts of Europe, thanks to the liberality of the Telegraphic Administrations. The method of the elevation of the rank of such telegrams proposed by M. CAPELLO appeared to be difficult of realisation; but the Committee considered it very desirable that the greatest efforts should be made with the different Telegraphic Administrations to obtain a more rapid transmission of these three categories. The transmission of the telegrams of these three categories takes place in this same order. 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